

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : CONSENT PRELIMINARY ORDER
- v. - : OF FORFEITURE AS TO SPECIFIC
BRANDON P. AUSTIN, : PROPERTY/
: MONEY JUDGMENT
Defendant. : 23 Cr. 199 (PKC)
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WHEREAS, on or about April 13, 2023, BRANDON P. AUSTIN (the “Defendant”), was charged in a one-count Information, 23 Cr. 199 (PKC) (the “Information”), with conspiracy to commit money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h) (Count One);

WHEREAS, the Information included a forfeiture allegation as to Count One of the Information, seeking forfeiture to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), of any and all property, real and personal, involved in the offense charged in Count One of the Information, or any property traceable to such property, including but not limited to a sum of money equal to \$3,406,450, in United States currency, representing the amount of property involved in the offense charged in Count One of the Information, and the following specific property;

- a. All funds held in BMO Harris Bank account number 4833367602, in the name of “Thor Ventures LLC”;
- b. All funds held in BMO Harris Bank account number 4832521888, in the name of “Brandon P. Austin”;
- c. All assets held in Coinbase account number 5a3dc3ea3102e50187a9206d;
- d. One 2022, Black E-Pace P250 AWD Jaguar with vehicle identification number SADFP2FX7N1028776 Florida license plate number QRGP56; and

- e. The following items, seized from Snowy Egret Place on June 3, 2021, pursuant to a search warrant:
 - i. One gray Apple MacBook Pro laptop computer, model no. A2141, and serial no. C02CV8DCMD6N;
 - ii. All records and check books relating to Thor Ventures LLC;
 - iii. One Acesori Powerslim10 Powerbank;
 - iv. One gray-color Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max in a clear Apple case with "GM5F4FJD0DXJ" imprinted on the case;
 - v. One gold-color Apple iPhone in a black Incipio case;
 - vi. One gray-color Apple iPad with serial no. DMPF5056NTH8; and
 - vii. One 2-TB Seagate external hard drive with serial no. NA9LY61N

(a. through e., collectively, the "Specific Property");

WHEREAS, on or about April 13, 2023, the Defendant pled guilty to Count One of the Information, pursuant to a plea agreement with the Government, wherein the Defendant admitted the forfeiture allegation with respect to Count One of the Information and agreed to forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1): a sum of money equal to \$3,406,450 in United States currency, representing the property involved in the commission of the offense charged in Count One of the Information; and all of his right, title and interest in the Specific Property;

WHEREAS, the Defendant consents to the entry of a money judgment in the amount of \$3,406,450 in United States currency, representing the amount of property involved in the offense charged in Count One of the Information, for which the Defendant is jointly and severally liable with any co-conspirators ("Co-Conspirators") for the conduct charged in Count One of the Information, to the extent forfeiture money judgments are ultimately entered against the Co-Conspirators for the offense charged in Count One of the Information;

WHEREAS, the Defendant further consents to the forfeiture of all his right, title and interest in the Specific Property, which constitutes property involved in the offense charged in Count One of the Information;

WHEREAS, the Defendant admits that, as a result of acts and/or omissions of the Defendant, the property involved in the offense charged in Count One of the Information cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence, with the exception of the Specific Property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(g), and Rules 32.2(b)(3), and 32.2(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government is now entitled, pending any assertion of third-party claims, to reduce the Specific Property to its possession and to notify any and all persons who reasonably appear to be a potential claimant of their interest herein;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between the United States of America, by its attorney Damian Williams, United States Attorney, Assistant United States Attorneys, Sarah Lai, Olga I. Zverovich, and Andrew Chan, of counsel, and the Defendant, and his counsel, Andrew Dalack, Esq., that:

1. As a result of the offense charged in Count One of the Information, to which the Defendant pled guilty, a money judgment in the amount of \$3,406,450 in United States currency (the “Money Judgment”), representing the amount of property involved in the offense charged in Count One of the Information, for which the Defendant is jointly and severally liable with the Co-Conspirators for the conduct charged in Count One of the Information, to the extent forfeiture money judgments are ultimately entered against the Co-Conspirators for the offense charged in Count One of the Information, shall be entered against the Defendant.

2. As a result of the offense charged in Count One of the Information, to which the Defendant pled guilty, all of the Defendant’s right, title and interest in the Specific Property is hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853.

3. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(4) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, this Consent Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property/Money Judgment is final as to the Defendant, BRANDON P. AUSTIN, and shall be deemed part of the sentence of the Defendant, and shall be included in the judgment of conviction therewith.

4. All payments on the outstanding Money Judgment shall be made by postal money order, bank or certified check, made payable to United States Customs and Border Protection, and delivered by mail to the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York, Attn: Money Laundering and Transnational Criminal Enterprises Unit, One St. Andrew's Plaza, New York, New York 10007, and shall indicate the Defendant's name and case number.

5. United States Customs and Border Protection shall be authorized to deposit the payment on the Money Judgment into the Treasury Assets Forfeiture Fund, and the United States shall have clear title to such forfeited property.

6. Upon entry of this Consent Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property/Money Judgment, the United States Customs and Border Protection, or its designee the Office of Fines, Penalties, and Forfeiture, is hereby authorized to take possession of the Specific Property and to hold such property in its secure custody and control.

7. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(n)(1), Rule 32.2(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and Rules G(4)(a)(iv)(C) and G(5)(a)(ii) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, the United States is permitted to publish forfeiture notices on the government internet site, www.forfeiture.gov. This site incorporates the forfeiture notices that have been traditionally published in newspapers. The United States forthwith shall publish the internet ad for at least thirty (30) consecutive days. Any person, other than the Defendant, claiming interest in the

Specific Property must file a Petition within sixty (60) days from the first day of publication of the Notice on this official government internet web site, or no later than thirty-five (35) days from the mailing of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

8. The published notice of forfeiture shall state that the petition (i) shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the petitioner's alleged interest in the Specific Property, (ii) shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury, and (iii) shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title or interest in the Specific Property, the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title and interest in the Specific Property, any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim, and the relief sought, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(n).

9. Pursuant to 32.2 (b)(6)(A) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government shall send notice to any person who reasonably appears to be a potential claimant with standing to contest the forfeiture in the ancillary proceeding.

10. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture with respect to the Specific Property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed. All Specific Property forfeited to the United States under a Final Order of Forfeiture shall be applied towards the satisfaction of the Money Judgment.

11. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), the United States is authorized to seek forfeiture of substitute assets of the Defendant up to the uncollected amount of the Money Judgment.

12. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States Attorney's Office is authorized to conduct any discovery needed to identify, locate

or dispose of forfeitable property, including depositions, interrogatories, requests for production of documents and the issuance of subpoenas.

13. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this Consent Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property/Money Judgment, and to amend it as necessary, pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

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14. The signature page of this Consent Preliminary Order of Forfeiture as to Specific Property/Money Judgment may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which together will constitute one and the same instrument.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

By:


OLGA I. ZVEROVICH
SARAH LAI
ANDREW CHAN
Assistant United States Attorneys
One St. Andrew's Plaza
New York, NY 10007
(212) 637-2514/1944/1072

04/12/23
DATE

BRANDON P. AUSTIN

By:


BRANDON P. AUSTIN

4/13/2023
DATE

By:


ANDREW DALACK, ESQ.
Attorney for Defendant
52 Duane Street, 10th Floor
New York, New York, 10017

4/13/2023
DATE

SO ORDERED:


THE HONORABLE P. KEVIN CASTEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

4-13-23
DATE